

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Master of Liberal Arts program provides learners with the unique ability to pursue a highly customized interdisciplinary graduate degree program, developed according to their own interests, while building broad analytical and problem solving skills that reach across the boundaries of academic disciplines and beyond the limited structure of traditional graduate degree programs.



MASTER OF LIBERAL ARTS



The Graduate School
803/323-2204 or 800/411-7041
www.winthrop.edu/graduateschool

College of Arts and Sciences
M.L.A. Program
150 Bancroft Hall
Rock Hill, SC 29733
803/323-2368
www.winthrop.edu/mla



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

PROGRAM EMPHASIS

The Master of Liberal Arts program at Winthrop University is an interdisciplinary graduate program designed for lifelong learners who seek intellectual stimulation outside of traditional graduate programs. In contrast to traditional master's degrees which narrow a student's perspective in a single discipline, the M.L.A. degree is based on the philosophy that fundamental human questions cannot be addressed adequately from such a narrow point of view. This philosophy, central to graduate liberal education across the country, is evident throughout the program at Winthrop.

The theme of the program is "The Search for Order." This search is undertaken through core colloquia which explore how humans have searched and continue to search for order in their world through empirical, rational and intuitive means. Students expand their search through courses in history, literature, political science, psychology, sociology, art history, and any other coursework of their choosing. The central feature of the program is that students must be given, and they must seize, the opportunity to think about and reflect on issues basic to our humanity.

The M.L.A. program at Winthrop began in 1989, the first such program in South Carolina. Since its inception, the program has attracted a diverse student population. Ages of students range from their twenties to eighties, and their professions are similarly broad. Such student diversity enriches a stimulating atmosphere where mature learners pursue knowledge not primarily for career advancement, but for a better sense of what it means to be a human being.

The M.L.A. program extends beyond the class room when students gather for social gatherings or functions such as the Hornsby M.L.A. Lecture Series.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Master of Liberal Arts degree requires completion of 33 semester hours of approved graduate-level courses as indicated below, at least half of which must be 600-level courses. Twelve hours in four courses are specifically designed, and required, for the program. Three of these are interdisciplinary colloquia developed on the theme, "The Search for Order." These courses explore how order is brought to our world through empirical, rational and intuitive means. The fourth required course, to be taken at the program completion, is an individual capstone project on a topic developed by the student. The remaining seven courses (21 hours) are elective graduate courses selected by the student upon consultation with the director.

Required Program	Semester Hours
LART 601	
The Search for Order: The Empirical Eye	3
LART 602	
The Search for Order: The Rational Eye	3
LART 603	
The Search for Order: The Intuitive Eye	3
LART 604	
Capstone Colloquium	3
500-600 level electives	21
Total Semester Hours	33

Note: Registration for GSTC 600, Continuing Graduate Studies, may be required. Check with advisor.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Potential applicants should first contact the program director at 803/323-2368 to discuss their interest prior to the application process. Program admission requires a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution, an additional essay (see # 3 below), and an interview with the program director (in some circumstances an inquiry and interview may precede the actual application process).

Applications should be submitted to the Graduate School office. Complete applications consist of the following:

1. Application for Graduate Admission;
2. Official transcripts (sent directly to Winthrop University from the issuing institution) from all post-secondary education; and
3. An additional five page typed essay describing the applicant's motivations and goals toward entering the program. Call the MLA office at 803/323-2368 for additional instructions.

Prior to the applicant's credentials being reviewed by the MLA admissions committee, the program director will contact the applicant to schedule an interview. Additional program and admission process information can be obtained from the MLA Program, 150 Bancroft Hall, Winthrop University, Rock Hill, SC 29733 or phone 803/323-2368.

